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Holiday mail thieves

Police urge caution for residents

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Thieves struck mailboxes in Duxbury over the holiday weekend, ripping open Christmas cards and packages searching for checks and cash, and police are urging residents to be vigilant about picking up their mail as soon as possible.

On Saturday, a local resident called police to report he had found mail belonging to residents of Powder Point discarded along Merry Avenue.

"On my way down Merry Ave., I noticed a lot of papers and debris. I stopped to pick it up and discovered that it appeared to be mail. After look

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ing at it, I discovered several names and addresses that included Powder Point and King Caesar and Merry Ave," said the resident who asked to remain anonymous. "I called the Duxbury police and Officer Tougas came and between the two of us, we found a lot more mail."

Police then searched King Caesar Road and Powder Point Avenue and found even more opened mail and some ripped open packages. Soon after, a second resident called police to report finding opened mail on St. George Street. Police also located more mail in neighborhoods on the Kingston town line.

According to the Duxbury police chief Matthew Clancy, mail theft is common during the holidays.

"This happens all the time and particularly this time of year," said Clancy. "Every holiday season, all police departments gets a couple of episodes of this."

Clancy called on Duxbury residents to "be aware" and "be good neighbors" and report any unusual activity.

"If you see anybody suspicious poking around the mailboxes get on the phone to the cops," said Clancy. "If you can, collect that mail as soon as possible." Clancy urged residents to make arrangements for a friend or neighbor to collect their mail and any packages they are expecting to prevent the thieves from striking again. Police detective Dennis McKenney is investigating the crime and he has notified the Duxbury postmaster. Letter carriers have also been instructed to be on high alert for suspicious activities near mailboxes. Police are asking area residents to report anything unusual they might have seen on Saturday in order to help them solve the crime. Clancy also asked residents to check their home security videos to see if they have anything on them that could help police identify the thieves.

For those people who have had mail or packages taken, Clancy said they must contact police as soon as possible. The police will give them a packet from the Federal Trade Commission that explains what they need to do protect their identities from theft, as that is a byproduct of mail theft, he said. Any mail and packages the police have collected will be given back to residents after they are tested for fingerprints.

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